(aa) The total world exports of unmanu-

6298. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the principle of majority decision would prevail in the World Trade Organisation authority;

(b) whether it is a fact that a country holding WTO membership would have the right to stall or veto the discussion on extraneous issues like environment, labour or social rights;

(c) whether the decision in WTO would be taken by 2|3 majority or any other for mula has been worked out.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Each member of the World Trade Organisation will have one vote.

The following decision can only be made by consensus:

(i) Amendments to the Most Favoured Nation articles of GATT, GATS and TRIPs;

(ii) Amendments to the articles concerning decision making and amendments in the WTO Agreement;

(iii) Amendments to the Dispute Settlement Understanding;

(iv) Grant of waivers in respect of any obligation subject to a transition period or a period for staged implementation; and

(v) Decision under the Dispute Settlement Understanding. In respect of all other decisions it has been provided that the practice of decision making by consensus shall continue, but if a consensus is not possible, then a 3|4 majority will be needed to adopt an interpretation or for waiving an obligation and a 2|3 majority for others.

All decisions in the Preparatory Committee of the WTO are to be by consensus.

Royalty charges for product patent under WTO Authority

6299. SHRI MOHD. MASUD KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether royalty charges for product patents under World Trade Organisation authority would be uniform for pre and post patented products or uneven royalty would be fixed by patent holder;

(b) who will fix up the royalty charges under World Trade Organisation authority; and

(c) whether World Trade Organisation member countries would have arbitrary powers to withhold licence of patents and fix the prices according to fixed norms?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The WTO Agreement does not address the question of fixation of royalty.

(c) No, Sir.

Restrictions on Plant varieties protected under Law

6300. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 310 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th April, 1994 and state:

(a) the elaboration of "There will be restrictions on the use of only those plant varieties which are protected under the law";

(b) please explain the reference to the law;

(c) which country's laws would restrict the use of only those plant varieties protected under the law;

(d) which are the plant varieties going to be protected under law; and

(e) which are the plant varieties left out of the law protection?